

# Fuel for Thought

## Planning... planning...

Like most organisations, at QER we're working through the planning and budgeting cycle for next year.

This year we've seen a bit of recovery in the oil price – up to around the \$US50 mark – but it still has some way to go before we see the necessary turnaround in oil industry investment for QER to be able to gain funding for a commercial project.

However our (very patient) company owners believe that the market will inevitably turn, with global oil demand continuing to grow year on year, and virtually no global investment happening in new production capacity. They therefore continue to support their investment in Queensland and in Gladstone.

In 2017 therefore, QER will continue working steadily on improving our project concept in areas such as engineering design and environmental performance. We will be working on the specifics of fabricating the necessary plant modules. We are also doing some dryer trials in the US (the only place we can currently access the necessary pilot plant) to confirm the design parameters for a Gladstone commercial plant. We are refining the design of our water and gas recycling circuits. In Gladstone we will continue to refine and test the design and operation of our improved ore feed system using the \$1m test unit which we built earlier this year in fab shops right here in Gladstone.

We are also working on a range of measures to help minimise the GHG signature of our commercial project. These include energy efficiency measures, the reuse of waste heat, the application of renewables (such as solar thermal heating and green power), the application of carbon capture technologies and our options for CO2 offsets.

So there's plenty of work to be done to make sure we put the best possible project on the table, once the market conditions are right.

In the meantime of course, we'll also continue to contribute to the life of the Gladstone Community and we have already committed to participating in events like Ecofest and the Gladstone Harbour Festival. We're looking forward to another year working quietly away in Gladstone, towards the day when we hope to become one of our town's biggest and best employers.



**Bruce Andersen**  
Site Superintendent,  
QER



Creating new fuels for Australia

[www.qer.com.au](http://www.qer.com.au)

**Visitor Centre at 375 Landing Rd, Yarwun.**

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